



News Release

Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Results of a recent survey are contained in this release. You can also find it on our site at www.nass.usda.gov/pa/ and click on the Pennsylvania Publications link.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tillage Practices Released

HARRISBURG, PA, June 30, 2011 -- USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Pennsylvania Field Office, has completed its 2011 survey of tillage practices for major field crops in the Commonwealth. The survey is funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and conducted in conjunction with NASS’s annual June Agricultural Survey.

In 2011, conventional tillage was used on 16.8% of the major crop acreage in Pennsylvania, down from the 22.4% recorded in 2010. No-till was practiced on 63.5 % of the major crop acreage, and other conservation tillage practices were used on the remaining 19.7%. Corn and soybeans are the two crops with the highest acreages. Conventional till was used on 17.9% of the corn acreage, no-till was practiced on 62.9% of the acreage, and the remaining 19.3% of the corn acreage used other conservation tillage practices. In soybeans, conventional till was used on 10.4% of the acreage, no-till was practiced on 69.8% of the acreage, and the remaining 19.8% of the acreage was cultivated using other conservation tillage practices. Winter Wheat showed the biggest change in tillage practices, with no-till increasing from 41.2% of the total acres planted to 64.1 % of the acres planted.

Pennsylvania: Tillage Practices by Crop, 2011							
Crop	Total Acres Planted	No-Till ¹		Other Conservation Tillage ²		Conventional Till ³	
		Acres	% of Total ⁴	Acres	% of Total ⁴	Acres	% of Total ⁴
Corn	1,400,000	880,000	62.9	270,000	19.3	250,000	17.9
Soybeans	480,000	335,000	69.8	95,000	19.8	50,000	10.4
Barley	62,000	42,000	67.7	12,000	19.4	8,000	12.9
Winter Wheat ⁵	195,000	125,000	64.1	40,000	20.5	30,000	15.4
Oats	80,000	25,000	31.3	20,000	25.0	35,000	43.8
Total ⁶	2,217,000	1,407,000	63.5	437,000	19.7	373,000	16.8
Alfalfa Seedings ^{7/8}	-	-	42.1	-	21.1	-	36.8

¹ No-Till – A procedure whereby a crop is planted directly into a seedbed not tilled since harvest of a previous crop, or the planting of a crop into sod, previous crop stubble, or a cover where only the intermediate seed zone is disturbed. ² Other Conservation Tillage – Tillage practices prior to planting which result in a minimum of 30 percent ground cover or residue being retained on the surface following planting. Grass and weed control is accomplished primarily with herbicides. Includes ridge till, strip till, and mulch till. ³ Conventional Till – Systems where 100 percent of the surface is mixed or inverted by plowing, power tilling, or multiple disking. ⁴ Sum of no-till, other conservation tillage and conventional till percents of total may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. ⁵ Wheat seeded the previous fall for all intended purposes including grain, cover, silage, hay or any other utilization. ⁶ Total excludes Alfalfa Seedings. ⁷ New alfalfa seeded or to be seeded during 2011. ⁸ Alfalfa seeded acres will be available in January 2012.

Pennsylvania: Tillage Practices by Crop, 2010							
Crop	Total Acres Planted	No-Till ¹		Other Conservation Tillage ²		Conventional Till ³	
		Acres	% of Total ⁴	Acres	% of Total ⁴	Acres	% of Total ⁴
Corn	1,350,000	735,000	54.4	315,000	23.3	300,000	22.2
Soybeans	500,000	320,000	64.0	106,000	21.2	74,000	14.8
Barley	60,000	34,000	56.7	14,000	23.3	12,000	20.0
Winter Wheat ⁵	165,000	68,000	41.2	44,000	26.7	53,000	32.1
Oats	110,000	35,000	31.8	25,000	22.7	50,000	45.5
Total ⁶	2,185,000	1,192,000	54.6	504,000	23.1	489,000	22.4
Alfalfa Seedings ⁷	95,000	35,000	36.8	26,000	27.4	34,000	35.8
Grand Total ⁸	2,280,000	1,227,000	53.8	530,000	23.2	523,000	22.9

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